

CLAIMS

1. A method of forming a luster coating film, comprising the steps of:

5 (1) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) to a substrate in three to five stages, in such a manner that the thickness of the base coating composition (A) applied in each of the second and subsequent stages becomes 0.3 to 5 μm when cured;

10 (2) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (B) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (A); and

(3) heating the two-layer coating comprising the base coating composition (A) and clear coating composition (B) to obtain a cured two-layer coating film.

15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment.

20 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein, in step (1), the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) applied in the first stage is 0.3 to 9 μm when cured.

25 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein, in step (1), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is an automotive body or a part thereof.

30 6. An automotive body or part thereof having a luster coating film formed by the method according to claim 5.

7. A method of forming a luster coating film, comprising the steps of:

35 (1) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) to a substrate in three to five stages,

in such a manner that the thickness of the base coating composition (A) applied in each of the second and subsequent stages becomes 0.3 to 5 μm when cured;

5 (2) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (B) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (A);

(3) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (C) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the clear coating composition (B); and

10 (4) heating the three-layer coating comprising the base coating composition (A), clear coating composition (B) and clear coating composition (C) to obtain a cured three-layer coating film.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein, in step 20 (1), the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) applied in the first stage is 0.3 to 9 μm when cured.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein, in step (1), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base 25 coating composition (A) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein the substrate is an automotive body or a part thereof.

12. An automotive body or part thereof having a luster 30 coating film formed by the method according to claim 11.